

## **Appleby Archaeology**

Notes of the Committee Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at White House, Brampton.

### **Present**

Phyl Rouston	Chair
Martin Railton	Research
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Martin Joyce	Newsletter
Stephen Walker	
Richard Stevens	Secretary

### **Apologies**

Carol Dougherty  
Tony Greenwood

### **Notes of the last meeting**

The notes were agreed as a correct record.

### **1/12/12 Matters arising**

1/9/12

- Talk to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> forms at the Grammar School: Still ongoing & will be followed up by Richard/Phyl. It was noted that Trish has her hands full at the moment. **(Richard/Phyl)**
- Richard had recently contacted Kendal museum & was awaiting a reply. **(Richard)**
- Martin R again updated the meeting on the progress of the Facebook page. There had been little further progress since the last meeting and Martin explained that what was really needed was to spread the word about the page as widely as possible. (Note: see 2/12/12 below.)

### **2/12/12 Membership**

Five new members had joined since the last update. It was not clear if Facebook had anything to do with this jump which had taken the group to its highest ever membership.

### **3/12/12 Treasurer's Report**

Mike presented the current state of the accounts at 12 September, showing a balance of £335.54. The public liability insurance premium had been paid & was the same as for last year.

### **4/12/12 Research**

Martin reported on the recent fieldwalking days which had been supervised by Carol & Martin J. Although the first was not well attended, the second had benefitted from a good turnout. He planned another finds washing day at Wardell Armstrong in Cocklakes, probably on January 15<sup>th</sup>. A report on the findings would be presented to the AGM.

Martin had talked to Paul Frodsham at the AONB & had made a suggestion that the planned survey of barrows on Brackenber Moor be included as a module in the Altogether Archaeology Project for 2013. Costings for this and for the post-excavation conservation of the Bronze Age cemetery finds had been passed to Paul. There was also the possibility of a training weekend aimed at a detailed survey & part excavation of one of the barrows. One of the barrows not actually on the golf course would be selected,

as, although the club were happy to allow excavation, they had made some adverse comments on the restoration of the ground at the previous excavation site. **(Martin)**

### **5/9/12 Correspondence**

The email edition of the Appleby-in-Westmorland Society Newsletter was now being received & circulated to committee members only.

Mike produced a letter from the CBA, sent to him presumably because he paid the fees, regarding the regional groups. Richard said that he was still waiting for the results of a meeting between CBA North, to which group we did previously belong, and the CBA executive. The concern was central funding of the regional group. **(Richard)**

Phyl said that she had received a letter from Age Concern regarding the details they held on us & had dealt with the matter.

Richard had been contacted by Ruth Annison from the Settle – Carlisle Enterprise Network, offering to include our programme in their regular newsletter. A copy had been sent with thanks for the publicity.

Once again Heart of Eden was discussed & Phyl expressed a general dissatisfaction with the publicity we receive. However, she would continue to monitor the situation.

### **6/9/12 Programme**

The remainder of the 2012/13 programme was discussed & committee members were asked to think about the programme for next year. Martin had been in contact with a post graduate student at UCLAN who was researching the finishing of Neolithic axes and who had found a suspected sharpening stone by the River Eden at Wetheral. He has promised to give a talk, either in October or November next year.

The speakers for the member's evening had been settled, with a total of 3 speakers, Trish had said she would talk about archaeology on Kos, Carol would discuss Kilmartin & new member Elizabeth Hodgson would talk about the restoration of a coaching inn at Brough.

Richard said that he had one or two possibilities in mind, including Mark Graham some time in early 2014, who would by then have completed two full seasons at Papcastle. **(Richard)**

**(Post meeting notes: Can we also all have a think about summer activities next year. Phyl has suggested that we invite Alastair Robertson to give his cancelled talk in May, either instead of or in addition to a walk, so that the members have the requisite number of talks for the year.)**

### **7/9/12 AOB**

At the last meeting, it was agreed that the possibility of organizing a trip further afield than the usual summer walks would be put to the AGM by Phyl before any detailed work was carried out by the committee. Various possible locations were mentioned including Kilmartin & Stonehenge. Richard said that the WCAS, with half our membership, managed a weekend trip to Suffolk earlier this year.

The AGM agenda would be fairly standard & would be sent out with the winter newsletter.

Phyl asked Stephen whether or not he might consider taking on the role of Vice Chairman. Although nobody had filled that role for some time, it was nevertheless useful to have someone to stand in for Phyl, as well as giving Stephen a definite role. He agreed to consider the proposal & let Phyl know.

Phyl went on to say that Tony had apologized for non-attendance at the meeting once again & had indicated his understanding if the committee wished to appoint someone else to produce & circulate group publicity. After a general discussion, Phyl said that she would talk to Tony to see if lack of time was the issue, and whether or not he would be prepared to continue, either in the short or long term, if someone else took care of poster distribution, whilst he carried on with the artwork, which everyone

present agreed was excellent. If not, whoever took on the job would be provided with the necessary software. **(Phyl)**

Martin Joyce explained that payment was soon due to Milburn school for the newsletter printing. Last year the cost had been £100 but this year because of the larger print run, the cost would be £110. Responding to a query on postage costs associated with the newsletter, Martin said that generally speaking, after copies had been collected at the talk following publication, he had to post around 50 per issue, equating to a cost of about £25 4 times a year.

Martin went on to express his concerns about the newsletter, in particular that nobody from the general membership had thought to comment on the change to colour. This had caused him to wonder if the content of the newsletter was what the membership wanted or expected, so he proposed to survey the membership early next year to find out. All others present expressed their entire satisfaction with the newsletter in its present form, especially since the change to colour.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9pm.

Date and Time of next meeting: **Thursday March 7th 2013 at Northgate, Milburn.**